closed Statement-I *(See* below).

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statemcnt-II *(See* below)

(c) and (d) Government provides fund for development of refineries thorugh OIDB and other means depending on several factors such as commercial viabili ty of the project, avilability of funds with OIDB as well as internal and extra-budgetary resources of the Companies. Accordingly, refineries in Assam may be provided funds depending upon the said factors.

Statement-I

Collection of Cess on Crude Oil

(Rs/Crores)

Year	*Amount*
1993-94	2160.89
1994-95	2548.97
1995-96	2800.63
Total	7510.49

Statement-II

*Contributionof Assam towards Crude Cess**

(Rs/Crores)

Year	*Amount*
1993-94	434.85
1994-95	431.62
1995-96	437.20

Statement regarding OIDB assistance to Refineries in Assam

(Rs/Crores)

Year	*Amount*
1993-94	50,00
1994-95	102.44
1995-96	251.49
Total	403.93

*The statement of collection of cess has been provided by the Office of Comissioner ot Central Excise and Customs, Shillong.

Pak participation in India-Iran Gas pipeline Project

4363. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 84 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1997 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had earlier refused to permit the pro posed India-Iran Gas pipeline to pass through that country's territorial waters but is now keen to participate in the project, as reported in the Times of India dated the 24th February, 1997;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether any tripartite talks between India, Iran and Pakistan are likely to take place in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The Government of Pakistan have not yet given their consent to the pipeline route survey for the proposed Iran-India gas pipeline through the Exclusive Economic Zone of Pakistan. Pakistan has fiot formally expressed any interest in participating in the project.

(b) The Government of Pakistan is being requested to expedite clearance of the pipeline route survey.

(c) No tripartite talks have been scheduled yet.

Supply of gas to Ramgarh Power Plant

4364. SHRI RAMDAS AGRWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for gas prices for various power plants in the country, particularly the Ramgarh Gas Power Plant in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the gas